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to the interest of the work are the many anecdotes dispersed throughout every part of the book. The language is excellent and unaffected which adds considerably to the charm of this biography.

BONIFACE STRATEMEIER, O. P.

Ideals of America: Analyses of the guiding motives of contemporary American life by leaders in various fields of thought and action. Prepared for the City Club of Chicago 1916-1919. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co., 1919.

This little work "Ideals of America" comes at an opportune time. It goes without saying that the World War, with its four years of hara-kiri, should leave the people of Europe bruised and dazed. Their ideals have been shattered. From out the wreck of it all, the old world must needs look to America for encouragement. That our ideals still live, is fully proved in the collection of these essays. We have something to cling to, and to cherish, despite the wreck across the sea. Our future is safe, if only we hold fast, and continue to put in practice, the motives which have guided us in the past.

Professor Bromhall of the Department of Political Science, University of Chicago, writes cautiously about the ideals which he sees at work in the field of politics. At the outset, he admits that "to attempt to say what the ideals of America are today, is especially presumptuous." That there are many dissenting opinions the Professor freely admits. In the run of time America has had occasion to change her political views, so as to meet the changing conditions. But after all, this was done "only for the purpose of pushing on more resolutely toward the greater ideal we have always professed."

The essay is clear and is written from the viewpoint of keen observation. Professor Bromhall sees the good and bad side of politics, but his hope for the future is bright. "If we have courage to trust the democratic method of growth and change toward democratic ideals the patriot and the humanitarian may still be optimists."

In the third chapter John Bradley Winslow, Chief Justice Supreme Court of Wisconsin, gives (a full and) a masterful

account of the laws made to better the condition of the workingman. Decrees of different courts are cited to show how the law, time and again, saved the laborer from the greed of his employer. It is the judge's opinion that there is a high purpose in the working of the law. Real equality of citizenship before the law is the order of the day; "not the abstract quality proclaimed by the Declaration of Independence, but an equality resulting from the frank recognition of the fact that, it is the greatest function of the state to equalize conditions, not merely by philanthropic work, but by the curbing of privilege and by subjecting the unrestrained individual liberty of former years to the limitations necessary to accomplish the greatest good to the community."

To speak of ideals in labor is to think as a rule of the cry of the workingman for more pay and shorter hours. But these things, as Mr. John P. Frey clearly and calmly states in his article "Ideals in Labor," are only means to an end. The workingman is something more than a machine. He has a mind that craves for recreation and improvement, and if his long hours keep him at his work, he is unable to spend his evenings in an effort to better his condition mentally. Mr. Frey ably, and in a mild way sets forth the misconceptions of labor's motives gathered from newspaper articles. The inside workings of the unions are too little known. Thousands of dollars are spent yearly for the benefit of the sick. Education is furthered, that in the end the Republic may have an army of intelligent, as well as robust, workingmen.

It is to be noted that throughout the essay there is a total absence of any feeling of resentment towards Capitalism. Mr. Frey believes in bettering the laborer by the intelligent appeal to the law of the land.

Professor Coe speaks for religious ideals. He lays great stress on the development of the spirit of brotherly love. He sees no reason why the golden rule should not continue to be practiced with ever-widening extent in the future.

The subjects of philosophy, education, literature and music are also treated by serious-minded leaders in their respective

fields. All in all, the book gives one a clear idea of the motives that are guiding us in the big questions of the day. A note of optimism runs through the whole work, which is worthy of careful reading by every American.

W. J. LYONS, C. S. C.

Understanding South America, by Clayton Sedgwick Cooper.
George H. Doran Co. New York; 1918.

That the author of this work is well qualified to write on this subject is generally admitted, for he has travelled extensively the countries of Latin America, and has been an observing student of everything Pan-American. As stated in the Preface, the author's purpose in writing this book was "to reveal certain principles actuating men of South America, as well as to describe the tendencies and conditions of their lives and country." In general, we believe, he has succeeded.

A glance at the table of contents will show the author's good taste in his selection of topics. He begins his work with a Chapter entitled "Getting Acquainted," and he sets forth in popular style the underlying theme "that it is the man in the house that counts," and it is to him and to his environment that one must adapt himself if he wishes to be eminently successful in his dealings with our "Sister Republics." Then follows a Chapter on "The Oriental South America," in which a vivid portrayal is given of the striking characteristics of these people. We are told that "The South American is theoretical rather than practical . . . that he is like the Oriental, as he is unlike the man of the Occident . . . that a liking for the literary and the artistic, predominates over that which is industrial and scientific . . . and the men are talented in oratorical and rhetorical matters, while in literature and languages they easily surpass in their aptitudes the men of the United States." Thenceforward the reader is conducted through the individual Republics from Panama to Chile, emphasis being placed on their institutions and industries; on their methods of doing business and on the natural back-ground and resources of the respective countries. Interspersed throughout are useful hints to American business